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TMS stimulation

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Over early carotid endarterectomy in stroke patients not justified

A multicentre study has found that the risks associated with early carotid endarterectomy in patients with non-disabling stroke or transient ischaemic attack and carotid artery stenosis is acceptable whether the procedure is carried out weeks after symptom onset

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the study



Georgios Tsivgoulis

was therefore to prospectively evaluate the safety of early carotid endarterectomy in patients with carotid artery stenosis in everyday clinical practice settings.

In addition, he reported that they also investigated whether urgent endarterectomy within two days from the index event, history of crescendo transient ischaemic attack or present of contralateral internal carotid artery occlusion were associated with higher risk of periprocedural complications.

The patients that were included had Modified Rankin Scale grade < 3 acute ischaemic stroke or

transient ischaemic attack due to carotid artery stenosis $\geq 70\%$ and were treated consecutively.

Early treatment was defined as ≤ 14 days from symptom onset. Primary outcome events were stroke, myocardial infarction and death during 30-day follow-up. This was defined according to the International Carotid Stenting Study criteria. Secondary outcome events were cranial nerve palsy and neck haematoma. Secondary prevention therapies during the follow-up period were determined by stroke neurologists according to

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Novel technology shows promising results for stenosis treatment in the supra-aortic vessels

At the Leipzig Interventional Course (LINC; 28–31 January 2014, Leipzig, Germany), Hannes Deutschmann (Department of Radiology, Medical University Graz, Austria) said that drug-coated balloons were a promising treatment option for stenosis in the supra-aortic vessels. He presented the first results and follow-up of the Neuro Elutax SV (Aachen Resonance) in carotid and vertebral artery

stenoses.

Deutschmann stated that in the intracranial arteries, percutaneous transluminal angioplasty had a high rate of recurrent stenosis (Higashida *et al*, 2005; Gupta R *et al*, 2003; Connors JJ *et al*, 1999). He noted that there was also a 10% rate of recurrent stenosis after carotid artery stenting (Yue X *et al*, 2011; Al-Ali *et al*, 2011) and a restenosis rate of up to 42.9% for



Hannes Deutschmann